

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| Applicant: | Thomas Knecht et al. | Art Unit: | Not Yet Assigned |
| Serial No. | Not Yet Assigned | Examiner: | Not Yet Assigned |
| Filed: | January 14, 2002 | Docket: | WC0080 |
| For: | MODIFIED SOLID GROUND ELECTRODE | | |



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.97(c)

Box PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97(c), documents that may be material to the examination of this application are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449.

No inference should be drawn that the attached list represents a comprehensive investigation, or that any disclosure in the listed documents is equivalent to the subject invention.

The cited documents disclose numerous specific features. There has been no attempt to enumerate each and every feature disclosed by each document, however. The Examiner is requested to review these documents and to determine the extent of the materiality of the document disclosures, if any, with respect to the present invention.

The discussion of any art and the citation of any document herein is not to be construed as an admission that the art or document disclosure is necessarily within the invention field of endeavor, that the art or document disclosure is necessarily prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant to the instant patent application, and/or that the art or document disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art as defined by the patent law with respect to the instant invention and application.

Also, there is reserved the right to later set forth how the claimed invention is distinguished over the disclosure of any document or other art, including the

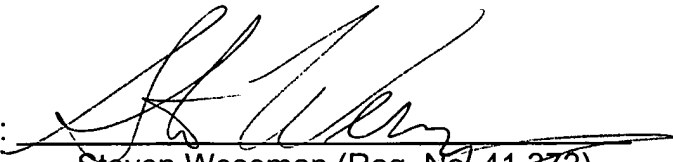
The recitation herein of the art and documents is not to be construed as an assertion that more pertinent art could not possibly be in existence.

The preceding comments are directed toward the following document also listed on the accompanying form PTO-1449:

U.S. Patent Document

U.S. Patent No. 4,180,783, issued December 25, 1979 to Khalifa
U.S. Patent No. 4,987,373, issued January 22, 1991 to Soo
U.S. Patent No. 5,349,310, issued September 20, 1994 to Reider et al.
U.S. Patent No. 5,432,827, issued June 11, 1995 to Mader
U.S. Patent No. 5,512,860, issued April 30, 1996 to Huscroft et al.
U.S. Patent No. 5,563,531, issued October 8, 1996 to Meyer
U.S. Patent No. 5,877,657, issued March 2, 1999 to Yoshinaka
U.S. Patent No. 5,929,712, issued July 27, 1999 to Kuriyama
U.S. Patent No. 5,952,890, issued September 14, 1999 to Fallisgaard et al.
U.S. Patent No. 5,987,085, issued November 16, 1999 to Anderson
U.S. Patent No. 6,066,989, issued May 23, 2000 to Knecht et al.
U.S. Patent No. 6,081,164, issued June 27, 2000 to Shigemori et al.
U.S. Patent No. 6,133,795, issued October 17, 2000 to Williams
U.S. Patent No. 6,154,095, issued November 28, 2000 to Shigemori et al.
U.S. Patent No. 6,172,576 B1, issued January 9, 2001 to Endo et al.
U.S. Patent No. 6,181,217 B1, issued January 30, 2001 to White

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail No. EU166424277US in an envelope addressed to: Box PATENT APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on January 14, 2002.



Joan C. Ramm